AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

In the detailed description, please amend the paragraph beginning on page 15, line 19 as follows:

-- The surface 202 (which in one preferred implementation represented in FIGS. 6-9 comprises an ActiveX® control) provides the actual drawing canvas on which model elements are arranged to form diagrams, represented in FIG. 4 as the modeling surface window 400. As described below, the surface 202 also acts as the central communication point for model elements to communicate with each other, including facilitating interconnection negotiations as further described in United States Patent Application Serial No. 09/742,909 entitled "*Negotiated Interconnection of Visual Modeling Elements*," assigned to the Assignee of the present invention and ~~herein~~ hereby incorporated by reference. --

In the detailed description, please amend the paragraph beginning on page 16, line 8 as follows:

-- Most of the properties, methods and events of the surface 202 are directed to adding, editing and deleting model elements, and to managing the interactions between them. A preferred modeling surface, to be provided to third parties such as independent software vendors, is further described in United States Patent Application Serial No. 09/742,819, now U.S. patent no. 6,795,089, entitled "Dynamic, Live Surface and Model Elements for Visualization and Modeling," assigned to the Assignee of the present invention and ~~herein~~ hereby incorporated by reference. Note that while this surface 202 is rich, consistent and straightforward to use, the surface 202 provides a set of defined interfaces, and is thus capable of being replaced by an arbitrary component that supports the same set of interfaces.--

In the detailed description, please amend the paragraph beginning on page 21, line 19 as follows:

-- As also represented in FIG. 3, the surface component 202 may provide universal shared components 312 that can be shared by hosts, such as to accomplish selection, hovering, zooming, and printing functions. Larger tools that may not be required by hosts and are thus optional may be provided as separate, pluggable components 314. This reduces the footprint requirements of smaller VMF applications that may not need these components, and the physical separation also makes it easy to provide several alternative implementations of these components. By way of example, model-independent persistence, such as XML/VML persistence, is a good candidate for a pluggable component because not every host will need every persistence mechanism, and indeed, some will not require a VMF provided persistence mechanism at all. As another example, automatic graph layout is a suitable candidate for a pluggable, shared component because layout algorithms are substantially different for different classes of modeling paradigms, and yet a single layout algorithm is often useful for many or all modeling paradigms within a class. Automatic layout is further described in United States Patent Application Serial No. 09/742,781 entitled "*Incremental and Interruptible Layout of Visual Modeling Elements*," assigned to the Assignee of the present invention and ~~herein~~ hereby incorporated by reference. --